

25X1

SEC T

## MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: DOBRYNIN RETURNING TO MOSCOW?

Reuters last week cited "diplomatic sources" to the effect that Ambassador Dobrynin was slated to return to Moscow. According to these sources, Dobrynin is to become a senior adviser to Andropov more or less equal to Foreign Minister Gromyko. They claimed that a search was under way for an appropriate successor to Dobrynin.

25X1

25X1

Since Brezhnev's death a number of Soviet officials have reported that Dobrynin's return to Moscow was imminent. The recent [redacted] report is the only one that has suggested friction between Gromyko and Andropov. One other report has indicated that Andropov does not like Dobrynin and that Dobrynin might be made one of several deputy foreign ministers. Other Soviet officials have said that Gromyko supports Andropov and have generally spoken in terms of promotions for both Dobrynin and Gromyko, with Dobrynin replacing Gromyko at the Foreign Ministry and Gromyko moving into the vacant presidency.

A spokesman for the Soviet Embassy last week publicly discounted the rumors about a transfer for Dobrynin. In view of the persistence of reporting from a wide variety of sources, however, we believe it likely that such a transfer is in fact under consideration in Moscow. Dobrynin's appointment as Foreign Minister would indicate that the leadership is placing the highest priority on improving relations with the US.

25X1